MEMORANDUM - JOHN KAPLAN ARTICLE IN AMER. SCHOLAR

FROM: Jerry Policoff
SUBJECT: Conversation With Mary Maloney of American Scholar
DATE: 9/30/71

On August 18, 1971 I called the American Scholar 1811 Q Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 - tel # CO 5 - 3808. The purpose of my call was to obtain a copy of John Kaplan's article "The Assassins" which appeared in the Spring, 1967 issue of the Scholar.

I spoke with Mary Maloney of the American Scholar, and in the course of conversation I asked her if Mr. Kaplan had done any other writing for the American Scholar. She said that he might have done a review here and there, but that he authored no other articles, largely because they had had quite a bit of difficulty with him over "The Assassins." Miss Maloney told me that the original manuscript was libelous of several critics of the Warren Commission in the opinion of the American Scholar's New York counsel, a Mrs. Wechsler (Nancy?). Although Mr. Kaplan was pleasant and polite throughout, he was adamant in his insistence that his article be printed in its original form. Mrs. Wechsler was equally adamant in her insistence that the original article would place the American Scholar in the likely position of being sued for libel. It was only after the American Scholar insisted that they would not run the article unless the allegedly libelous passages were edited out that Mr. Kaplan reluctantly consented to the changes.

Miss Maloney also told me that McGeorge Bundy had expressed displeasure with the American media for giving the Kaplan article so little attention. He expressed the opinion that the article warranted publication in a larger circulation magazine than the American Scholar.